

The Frick patent does not disclose a seal that engages a sensing element located within a housing and that has an electrically conductive path from the sensing element to a lead that is outside of the housing. In the rejection of claim 5, the Examiner seems to assert that the Frick patent discloses a seal that is located within the housing and that has an electrically conductive path from the sensing element to a lead that is outside of the housing. However, while the Examiner points to the electrical leads 74, the Examiner does not show how these leads form an electrically conductive path through a seal that engages a sensing element so as to prevent flow of a fluid past the sensing element. Indeed, the Frick patent discloses no such seal.

Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by the Frick patent.

With regard to claims 3 and 4, the Examiner does not indicate where the Frick patent discloses a pair of seals that are elastomeric, that are located within the housing, that have an electrically conductive path from the sensing element to a lead outside of the housing, and that engage a sensing element so as to prevent flow of a fluid past the sensing element.

Accordingly, claims 3 and 4 are not anticipated by the Frick patent.

With regard to claim 24, the Examiner does not indicate where the Frick patent discloses a seal that is elastomeric, that is located within the housing, that has an electrically conductive path from the sensing element to a lead outside of the housing, and that engages a sensing element so as to prevent flow of a fluid past the sensing element.

Accordingly, claim 24 is not anticipated by the Frick patent.

Claim 11 is directed to a flow sensor package in which a sensing element is located in the first channel of a housing, and in which the sensing element has first and second opposing sides such that the first side is in fluid communication with an inlet of the housing and the second side is in fluid communication with an outlet of the housing.

The Frick patent discloses no such sensing element. Accordingly, claim 11 is not anticipated by the Frick patent.

Claim 20 is directed to a method of determining flow rate through a flow conductor in which a pressure change is created within a housing having only two separate housing portions, the pressure change is sensed by a sensing element mounted within the housing, the sensing element is sealed within the housing using a

seal, and an electrical signal is communicated from the sensing element to an exterior of the housing.

The Frick patent does not disclose a housing having only two separate housing portions, a sensing element mounted within the housing, a seal that seals the sensing element within the housing, and communicating an electrical signal from the sensing element to an exterior of the housing.

Accordingly, claim 20 is not anticipated by the Frick patent.

Because the independent claims of the present application are not anticipated by the Frick patent, the dependent claims of the present application are likewise not anticipated by the Frick patent.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the Drawings and to the claims by the current amendment. The attached version is captioned **"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."**

In view of the above, it is clear that the claims of the present application patentably distinguish over the art applied by the Examiner. Accordingly,

allowance of these claims and issuance of the above
captioned patent application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE DRAWINGS

With the agreement of the Examiner, applicants propose to amend Figure 3 of the Drawings by changing the reference numeral 22 to the reference numeral 21 as shown by the red ink notations on the accompanying copy of Figure 3. Also with the agreement of the Examiner, applicants propose to amend Figure 1b of the Drawings by changing the direction of the arrows in the channels 21, 22, and 23 as shown by the red ink notations on the accompanying copy of Figure 1b.

IN THE CLAIMS

The claims have been amended in the following manner:

1. (Amended) A flow sensor package comprising:

a housing having an inlet, an outlet, and first and second channels in communication with the inlet and the outlet;

a sensing element in the first channel;

a restriction in the second channel; and

a seal engaging the sensing element so as to prevent flow of a fluid past the sensing element, wherein the seal has an electrically conductive path from the sensing element to a lead, and wherein the lead is outside of the housing.

11. (Amended) A flow sensor package comprising:

a housing, an inlet, an outlet, and first and second channels in communication with the inlet and the outlet;

a sensing element in the first channel, wherein the sensing element has first and second opposing sides, wherein the first side is in fluid communication with the inlet, and wherein the second side is in fluid communication with the outlet;

a restriction in the second channel, wherein the restriction permits flow of a liquid through the inlet, the second channel, and the outlet; and

a seal engaging the sensing element so as to prevent flow of the liquid past the sensing element, wherein the sensing element senses a pressure change across the restriction.

20. (Amended) A method of determining flow rate through a flow conductor comprising the following steps of:

creating a pressure change within a housing having only two separate housing portions;

sensing the pressure change using a sensing element mounted [in communication with] within the housing;

sealing the sensing element within the housing using a seal; and

communicating [a] an electrical signal from the sensing element [through the seal] to an exterior of the housing.

21. (Amended) The method of Claim 20, wherein the sealing step comprises the step of sealing leakage between the two separate portions [a base and a cover] of the housing.

The following claims have been added by this amendment:

23. The method of Claim 20, wherein the communicating step comprises the step of communicating the electrical signal from the sensing element through the seal to an exterior of the housing.

24. The flow sensor package of Claim 1,
wherein the seal comprises an elastomeric seal.

Claims 5, 8, and 10 have been canceled.

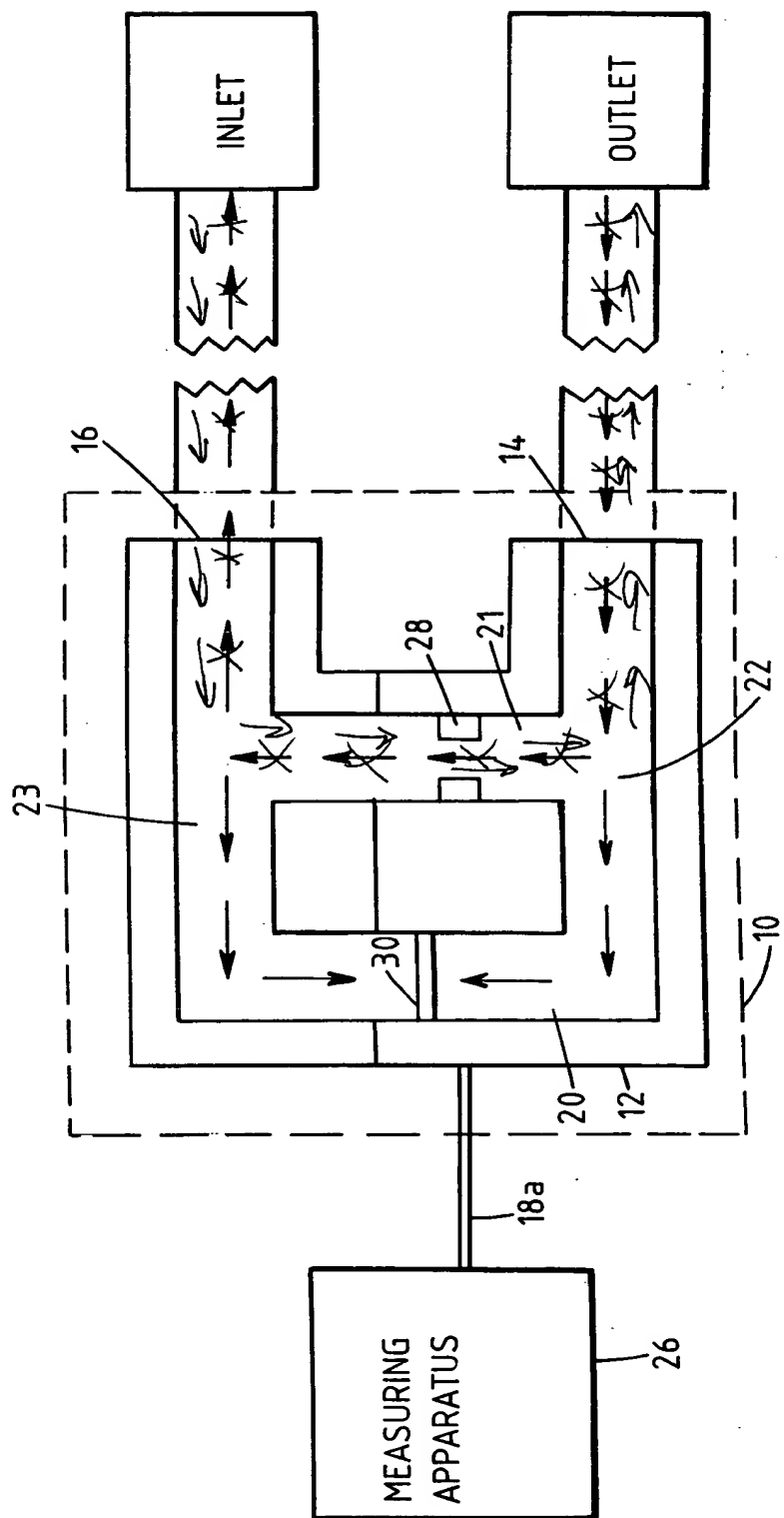


FIG. 1b

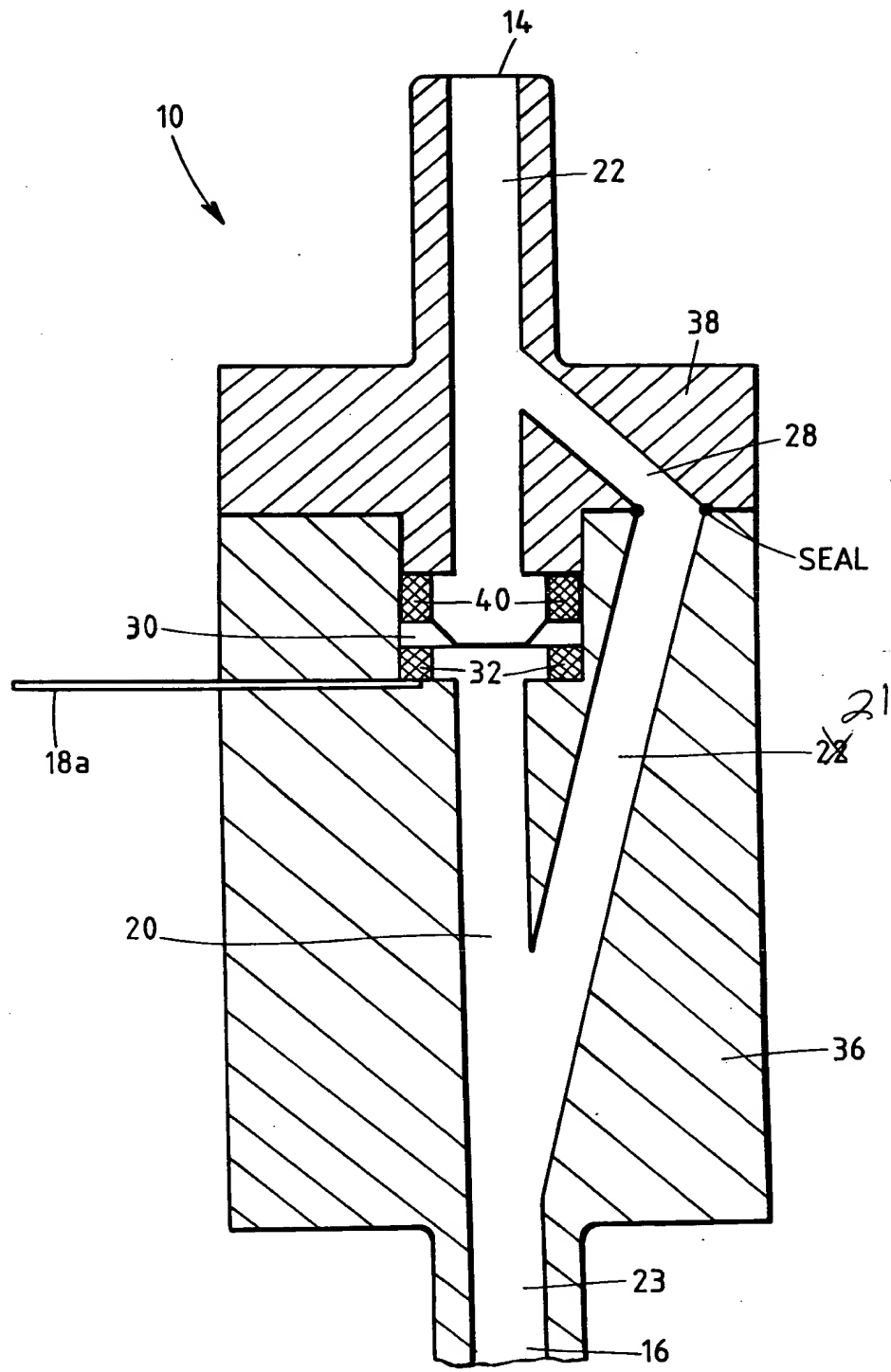


FIG. 3